

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for authorizing the use of an adaptable device, the method
2 comprising
3 detecting that the adaptable device is adapted to perform a first type of
4 operation at a first point in time;
5 detecting that the adaptable device is adapted to perform a second type of
6 operation at a second point in time; and
7 using the detected adaptations to determine whether to authorize the continued
8 use of the device.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second types of operation
2 are cellular telephone operations.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first and second types of operation
2 are each one of the following: code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple
3 access (TDMA), analog cellular telephone or radio frequency transmission.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second types of operation
2 are media player operations.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second types of operation
2 are global positioning satellite (GPS) receiver types of operations.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting steps include the substep
2 of
3 using the internet to transfer information about the operation of the device to
4 an entity located remotely from the device.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting steps include the substep
2 of
3 using the cellular telephone network to transfer information about the
4 operation of the device to an entity located remotely from the device.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting steps include the substep
2 of
3 receiving usage information from the device.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the usage information includes
2 information about times that the device has been used.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the usage information includes
2 information about resources that the device has used.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein a resource includes instruction type.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein a resource includes instruction
2 execution frequency.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein a resource includes memory use..

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein a resource includes energy
2 consumption by the device.

1 15. A method for tracking the use of an adaptable device at a central site,
2 the method comprising

3 obtaining information about the changing functionality of the adaptable
4 device; and

5 transferring the information to a central site.

1 16. A system for tracking the use of an adaptable device at a central site,
2 the system executing on a digital processing system coupled to a communication link,
3 wherein the digital processing system executes instructions, the communication link coupled
4 to the adaptable device, the system comprising

5 one or more instructions for obtaining information about the changing
6 functionality of the adaptable device; and

7 one or more instructions for using the information to regulate the use of the
8 adaptable device.